



Lowell Public Schools
Lowell High School
50 Fr. Morissette Blvd
Lowell, Massachusetts 01852-1050



Michael Fiato
Head of School

Tel. (978) 937-8900
Fax (978) 937-8902
Email: MFiato@lowell.k12.ma.us

Memo

To: Liam Skinner, Interim Superintendent

From: Michael Fiato, Head of School

Date: July 14, 2023

Re: Cell Phone Policy Recommendation

Lowell High School is proposing a change in the current cell phone policy to increase student engagement and reduce distractions. During the second part of the school year a team of staff members collaborated on drafting a policy recommendation for consideration and review.

Our goal is to create a distraction-free learning environment. We want to ensure that every student has the opportunity to focus on their studies without any interruptions from their phones. We believe that this policy will not only help students stay on task, but it will also promote a more positive and productive classroom experience.

We believe that this policy will help to reduce the incidence of cyberbullying and other negative online behaviors. By limiting access to cell phones during class, we hope to create a safer and more inclusive learning environment for all students.

Finally, we recognize that cell phones can be a source of anxiety and stress for some students. We hope that by providing a designated location for phones during class, students will feel less pressure to constantly check their devices and will be able to fully engage in classroom activities.

We understand that there may be questions and concerns about this policy recommendation and it is for this reason we are sharing this policy change recommendation with you to present to the School Committee for review and consideration.



Lowell Public Schools
Lowell High School
50 Fr. Morissette Blvd
Lowell, Massachusetts 01852-1050



Michael Fiato
Head of School

Tel. (978) 937-8900
Fax (978) 937-8902
Email: MFiato@lowell.k12.ma.us

Proposed Cell Phone Policy 2023-24

Cell phones are a normal means for parents/guardians to coordinate after-school activities, schedules, and transportation issues. However, in the classroom cell phones are a distraction, taking away from the educational process by decreasing classroom engagement, hindering student communication, negatively impacting school culture, and limiting student success. Recognizing this reality the following policy will apply to cell phones within the school:

Prohibited Cell Phone Use—No cell phones in the classroom. Upon entering class, cell phones (and other electronic devices) must be turned off and cell phones must be put into the designated classroom container. No cell phone use is allowed while out on hall pass during class time.

Allowed Cell Phone Use—In the hallway during class changing times and in the cafeteria during assigned lunch. The cell phone privilege must not interfere with students arriving to class on time.

Any student who repeatedly violates the cell phone policy will have his or her phone confiscated, lose the privilege to carry a cell phone in school, and the parent will need to come collect the phone and discuss the potential disciplinary action.

Photography and videography are prohibited in school or on school grounds without prior permission. Use of the cell phone in unauthorized ways to include inappropriate picture taking or filming, harassing and bullying behavior or a complete disregard for the policy could result in more serious actions such as referral to the alternative school and/or possible expulsion.

Though the school will secure the phone, the ultimate responsibility for any loss or damage remains with the student.

Any parent/guardian who feels the need to reach his/her child during the school day is asked to call the house office. In the case of an emergency, students can be reached quickly.



Lowell Public Schools
Lowell High School
50 Fr. Morissette Blvd
Lowell, Massachusetts 01852-1050



Michael Fiato
Head of School

Tel. (978) 937-8900
Fax (978) 937-8902
Email: MFiato@lowell.k12.ma.us

Current Cell Phone Policy 2022-23

Cell phones have become the normal means for parents/guardians to coordinate after-school activities, schedules, and transportation issues. Recognizing this reality but also needing to ensure that the educational process is not disrupted and the integrity of testing is not compromised, the following policy will apply to the issue of cell phones within the school:

Cell phones and other electronic devices must be off and put away while in school except as itemized:

- Cell phones and other electronic devices may be used in the cafeteria during lunches. Silent cell phone use may occur in the hallways during class changing time. This right can be taken away at any point if so determined by the Head of School.
- Cell phone use is allowed in the classroom for teacher directed educational purposes only. No cell phone is to be used in the classroom without explicit direction from the teacher. Substitute teachers are not authorized to allow cell phone use by students during the class period being covered.

Photography and videography are prohibited in school or on school grounds without prior permission. The cell phone privilege must not interfere with students arriving to class on time. The phone must be turned off before entering class.

Students are not allowed to use cell phones during class time while on passes between classrooms or to and from the bathroom and class.



Lowell Public Schools
Lowell High School
50 Fr. Morissette Blvd
Lowell, Massachusetts 01852-1050



Michael Fiato
Head of School

Tel. (978) 937-8900
Fax (978) 937-8902
Email: MFiato@lowell.k12.ma.us

Any student using a cell phone in class without prior permission from the teacher (text messaging, phone conversations, checking messages or the time, or using a calculator) **will have his or her phone confiscated and may face disciplinary action to include detention and/or suspension.** Use of the cell phone in unauthorized ways to include inappropriate picture taking or filming, harassing and bullying behavior or a complete disregard for the policy could result in more serious actions such as referral to the alternative school and/or possible expulsion.

Any student who repeatedly violates the cell phone policy will have his or her phone confiscated, lose the privilege to carry a cell phone in school, and the parent will need to come collect the phone and discuss the potential disciplinary action.

Failure to surrender the device to a faculty member or administrator when asked may result in a one-day suspension from school or further action as determined by the Head of School.

Though the school will secure the phone, the ultimate responsibility for any loss or damage remains with the student who violated this policy.

Parents/guardians are requested not to contact their child during the school day via cell phone. Any parent/guardian who feels the need to reach his/her child during the school day is asked to call the house office. In the case of an emergency, students can be reached quickly.